

Claims:-

1. A non-therapeutic method of producing antibodies that bind adipose tissues in a target animal in need of said antibodies for modulating the content of adipose tissues in said target animal, the method comprising the steps of:

(i) preparing an antigen from adipose tissues of a source animal wherein said source animal and said target animal belong to closely related species;

(ii) administering said antigen to an egg laying animal to cause production of said antibodies wherein said egg-laying animal and said target animal belong to different species; and

(iii) obtaining said antibodies from eggs of said egg-laying animal wherein said egg-laying animal and said source animal belong to different species.

2. A method according to Claim 1 comprising a step of causing production of said antibodies from within the body of said egg-laying animal.

3. A method according to Claim 1 or 2 comprising a step of causing deposition of said antibodies to said eggs of said egg-laying animal.

4. A method according to any preceding claim wherein said step of obtaining comprises a step of isolating said antibodies from the egg yolk of said eggs.

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5. A method according to any preceding claim wherein said antigen comprises plasma membrane, its adipocyte plasma membrane surface proteins, or fragments thereof, of said adipose tissues of said source animal.

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6. A method according to any preceding claim wherein said antibodies are polyclonal antibodies.

15 7. A method according to any preceding claim wherein said source animal and said egg-laying animal belong to distinctly different species.

8. A method according to any preceding claim wherein said target animal and said egg-laying animal belong to distinctly different species.

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9. A method according to any preceding claim wherein said target animal is a farm animal.

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10. A method according to any preceding claim wherein said source animal and/or said target is a swine.

5 11. A method according to any one of Claims 1 to 8 wherein said target animal is a patient.

12. A method according to any preceding claim wherein said egg-laying animal in an avian animal and said source animal is a non-avian animal.

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13. A method according to any preceding claim wherein said source animal is a mammal.

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14. A method according to any preceding claim wherein one or more of said animals is sacrificed after said method.

15. Antibodies obtainable according to the method defined in any one of Claims 1 to 14.

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16. Antibodies according to Claim 15 for use in a method of treatment or diagnosis.

17. Use of antibodies defined in Claim 15 or 16 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a condition caused by an excess of adipocytes.
- 5 18. A feed additive comprising an effective amount of antibodies defined in Claim 15 or 16.
19. A feed additive according to Claim 18 adapted to lower the content of said adipose tissues in said target animal.
- 10 20. A feed additive according to Claim 18 or 19 wherein said composition comprises egg yolk of said eggs containing said antibodies.
- 15 21. A medicament comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of antibodies defined in Claim 15 or 16.
22. A medicament according to Claim 21 adapted to be administered via ingestion.
- 20 23. A medicament according to Claim 21 adapted to be administered via injection.
24. A method of modulating content of adipose tissues in the body of a target animal in need of antibodies, comprising the steps of:
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- (i) preparing an antigen from adipose tissues of a source animal;
- (ii) administering said antigen to an egg-laying animal;
- 5 (iii) allowing said antibodies to be produced by said egg-laying animal in response to said antigen;
- (iv) obtaining said antibodies from eggs of said egg-laying animal; and
- 10 (v) administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of said antibodies to said target animal by ingestion, wherein said source animal and said egg-laying animal belong to different species.

25. A method according to Claim 24 wherein said step of
15 obtaining comprises a step of isolating said antibodies from the egg yolk of said eggs.

26. A method according to Claim 24 or 25 comprising a
20 step of binding said antibodies to characterizing components of plasma membrane of said adipose tissues in said target animal.

27. A method according to Claim 24, 25 or 26 comprising
25 a step of binding said antibodies to granular viscosity proteins of said adipose tissues in said target animal.

28. A method according to Claim 24, 25 or 26 comprising
a step of binding said antibodies to fiber viscosity
proteins of said adipose tissues in said target
animal.
29. A method according to any one of Claims 24 to 28
wherein said antigen comprises plasma membrane, its
adipocyte plasma membrane surface proteins, or
fragments thereof, of said adipose tissues of said
source animal.
30. A method according to any one of Claims 24 to 29
wherein said antibodies are polyclonal antibodies.
31. A method according to any one of Claims 24 to 30
wherein said source animal and said egg-laying
animal belong to distinctly different species.
32. A method according to any one of Claims 24 to 31
wherein said target animal and said egg-laying
animal belong to different species.
33. A method according to Claim 32 wherein said target
animal and said egg-laying animal belong to
distinctly different species.

34. A method according to any one Claims 24 to 33 wherein said target animal and said source animal belong to a same species.

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35. A method according to any one Claims 24 to 33 wherein said target animal and said source animal belong to a closely related species.

10 36. A method according any one of Claims 24 to 36 wherein said method is a non-therapeutic method.

37. A method according to any one of Claims 24 to 36 wherein said target animal is a farm animal.

15 38. A method according to any one of Claims 24 to 37 wherein said source animal and/or said target is a swine.

20 39. A method according to any one of Claims 24 to 36 wherein said target animal is a patient.

40. A method according to any one of Claims 24 to 39 wherein said egg-laying animal is an avian animal and said source animal is a non-avian animal.

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41. A method according to any one of Claims 24 to 40 wherein said source animal is a mammal.

42. A method according to any one of Claims 24 to 41 wherein one or more of said animals is sacrificed after said method.

43. A method of producing antibodies that bind adipose tissues in a target animal in need of said antibodies for modulating the content of adipose tissues in said target animal, the method comprising the steps of:

(i) preparing an antigen from adipose tissues of a source animal wherein said source animal and said target animal belong to closely related species;

(ii) administering said antigen to an egg-laying animal to cause production of said antibodies wherein said egg-laying animal and said target animal belong to different species; and

(iii) obtaining said antibodies from eggs of said egg-laying animal wherein said egg-laying animal and said source animal belong to different species.